

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, Claims 10-12 and 14-17 have been cancelled. Claims 18-22 have been added.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 10-12 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sieger, U.S. Patent No. 2,076,969 (Sieger) in view of Sato, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,207,138 (Sato). Claim 14 was rejected as claims above and further in view of Martin, U.S. Patent No. 3,037,396 (Martin). It is respectfully submitted that new claims 18-22 are patentable over the cited references.

Specifically claim 18 recites that an upper blade support is formed as a beam bridge with shaft stubs provided on its opposite longitudinal sides.

As explained in the specification (last paragraph on page 9 and first paragraph on page 10), forming the upper blade support as a beam bridge reliably prevents any damage of the strip in the shears region. Neither Sieger, nor Sato discloses or suggests forming the upper blade support as beam bridge.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention, as defined by claim 18, is not anticipated by or is obvious over Sieger and/or Sato, and claim 18 is patentable over Sieger and Sato, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claims 19-22 depend on claim 18 and are allowable for the same reason claim 18 is allowable.

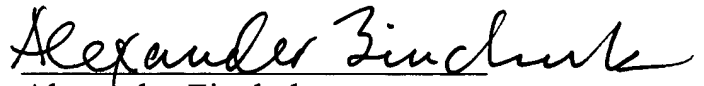
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal

respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 14, 2004.


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